

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 /016 W
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R 081445Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5014
INFO AMEMBASSY PREOTIRA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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PRETORIA FOR RSO

DEPT FOR AF/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, BC
SUBJ: TERRORISM

REF: STATE 249033

1. IN EMBASY'S VIEW CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION IN BOTSWANA DOES NOT WARRANT ASSIGNMENT MARINE GUARDS. RSO CONCURS IN THIS ASSESSMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM OR THREATS OF SUCH ACTIVITY TO DATE. MOREOVER, APPEARS UNLIKELY POTENTIAL FOR TERRORISM WILL INCREASE IN NEAR FUTURE. THERE VITUALLY NO JEWSIH AND NO ARAB POPULATIONS RESIDENT IN BOTSWANA. BEARERS ARAB COUNTRY PASSPORT (IN CONTRAST U.S. AND EUROPEAN NATIONALS) REQUIRE VISAS NECESSITATING CLOSE SCRUTINY. GOB RECENTLY BROKE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND THERE ARE NO ARAB OR SOVIET BLOC EMBASSIES IN CAPITAL. EMBASSY BELIEVES RELATIVELY EFFICIENT GOB SECURITY APPARATUS PROVIDES MORE THAN ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN PREVALING STABLE CONDITIONS. GOB SPECIAL BRANCH MAINTAINS EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK WHILE POLICE AND TWO POLICE MOBILE UNITS TRAINED IN ANT-GUERRILLA AND TERRORIST OPERATIONS.

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2. SHOULD AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT FOLLOW ARAB LEAD IN TERRORIZING DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, SITUATION WOULD REQUIRE

REASSESSMENT. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED. GOB HAS EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED POLICY OF REFUSING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO TRANSIT OR OPERATE FROM BOTSWANA SOIL. BOTSWANA SECURITY FORCES REACTED FORCEFULLY AGAINST SEVERAL LIBERATION GROUPS VIOLATING BOTSWANA TERRITORY IN LATE 1960'S AND SITUATION HAS BEEN WELL UNDER CONTROL SINCE THEN. GOB NOTED FOR MOVING QUICKLY TO EXPELL ALL BUT GENUINE POLITICAL REFUGEES.

3. NONE OF SIX EMBASSIES IN GABORONE (U.S., U.K., NIGERIA, ZAMBIA, SWEDEN AND REPUBLIC OF CHINA) HAS MARINE GUARD TYPE PROTECTION. MARINE GUARD CONTINGENT APPROXIMATELY EQUAL IN NUMBERS TO EMBASSY'S ENTIRE U.S. STAFF WOULD BE CUMBERSOME AND POLITICALLY AWKWARD. IN ADDITION, THERE CRITICAL SHORTAGE HOUSING IN GABORONE, AND ASSIGNMENT OF MARINES WOULD PLACE STRAIN ON POST'S LIMITED ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY.

4. THEREFORE REQUEST EXCEPTION FROM DEPARTMENT POLICY OF ASSIGNING*MARINE GUARDS. BISHOP

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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